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MEMORANDUM

Land Retirement Acreage Identification

TO: Steve Yeager
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FROM: Greg Young

COPIES: Loren Bottorff
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This memo serves to identify a defensible acreage value for use in discussing land retirement for water quality benefits. The focus is on lands within the Grasslands Subarea on the westside of the San Joaquin Valley. The values discussed should be considered in addition to any current levels of retirement and in addition to lands targeted under federal programs.

At the end of page 1 of the *CALFED Policy Regarding Land Retirement*, replace the last sentence of the paragraph which starts with the word "However, . . ." with the following:

"However, this range will not exceed 40,000 acres."

The derivation of this number comes directly from *A Management Plan for Agricultural Subsurface Drainage and Related Problems on the Westside San Joaquin Valley*, September 1990 (otherwise known as the Rainbow Report). On page 93 of this report, Table 15 presents a land retirement value of 37,400 acres for the Grasslands Subarea. This value represents lands with a selenium concentration of 200 ppb in the shallow groundwater and was used by the report to select lands on which irrigated agriculture would be discontinued. The final recommendations of the report greatly reduced this number to only 3,000 acres. This is a result of a different set of criteria applied at the end of the analysis process. The final value of 3,000 acres was determined using lands that both had 1) shallow groundwater with selenium concentrations >50 ppb, and 2) lands that were USBR Class 4 or equivalent SCS soil classification. Just over 90,000 acres of land in this subarea met the first criteria, but when the low soil classification was added, the "intersection" was very low. For purposes of reducing drainage water quality impacts on the San Joaquin River, the land classification should not be seen as a governing factor. At the same time, including all lands with >50 ppb selenium concentrations is not appropriate either. At this point in time, the most defensible value is the 37,400 acres from the >200 ppb selenium concentration lands. However, this level of selenium is in a concentrated area and if it were the sole criteria, then the majority of a few districts would be "wiped out". The best balance as we go forward would probably include setting a percentage goal of the >50 ppb selenium concentration lands, such as 40% to 50%. This would also result in around 40,000 acres and would spread retirement across a greater area (all of which is in some manner contributing to drainage flows that adversely effect the San Joaquin River).